

FACULTY RECITAL

SUSANNE MENTZER, Mezzo-soprano

GRANT LOEHNIG, Piano

DOROTHY Z. BAKER, Guest Speaker

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

Celebrating

35

1975-2010

Years

THE SHEPHERD SCHOOL OF MUSIC RICE UNIVERSITY

AN EVENING WITH
EMILY DICKINSON

- Doubt Me! My Dim Companion!*** Richard Pearson Thomas
from At last, to be identified (1992) (b. 1957)
- Go thy great way!*** Jake Heggie
from The Starry Night (2001) (b. 1961)
- An amethyst remembrance*** Lori Laitman
from The Perfected Life (2005) (b. 1955)
- Cantilena II*** Tom Cipullo
from A Visit with Emily (1999) (b. 1962)
- The sun kept setting*** Jake Heggie
from The Starry Night (2001)
- Love's stricken, "Why" (1947)*** Ned Rorem
No. 4 from Poems of Love and the Rain (b. 1923)
- She died*** Lori Laitman
from Four Dickinson Songs (1995)
- Love's stricken, "Why" (1962)*** Ned Rorem
No. 14 from Poems of Love and the Rain
- Epilogue*** Tom Cipullo
from A Visit with Emily (1999)
- I never saw a moor*** Richard Pearson Thomas
from At last, to be identified (1992)

INTERMISSION

(Please hold applause until the performance is over.)

- Citizen of Paradise*** (1983) Carlisle Floyd
Prologue (b. 1926)
Self: I-II
Friendship and Society: III-VI
Love: VII-X
Nature: XI-XIII
Death and Solitude: XIV-XVII
Epilogue

*This event is co-sponsored with the Rice University Humanities
Research Center (HRC) Poetry and Poetics Workshop.*

*The reverberative acoustics of Duncan Recital Hall magnify the slightest
sound made by the audience. Your care and courtesy will be appreciated.
The taking of photographs and use of recording equipment are prohibited.*

BIOGRAPHIES

Internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano SUSANNE MENTZER has taught at The Shepherd School of Music since 2006 and continues to perform actively. Widely admired for her acting and as a specialist in trouser roles (Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Der Komponist in *Ariadne auf Naxos*), she specializes in the operas of Mozart, Berlioz, and Richard Strauss. Professor Mentzer enjoys a significant concert and recital career, and is particularly interested in chamber music. She has been a guest artist at the Metropolitan Opera in leading roles since 1989. Recent engagements include the Metropolitan Opera's 125th Anniversary Gala, the world premiere of *The First Emperor* by Tan Dun with the Metropolitan Opera, and performances with the Chicago Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera, Florida Grand Opera, and Opera Colorado. Her recent chamber work took her to Music in the Vineyards (Napa), Music from Angel Fire, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Da Camera of Houston, and Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Upcoming performances include Marcellina in *Le nozze di Figaro* at Houston Grand Opera and *L'heure espagnole* with the Houston Symphony. Her performance as Der Komponist in the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Ariadne auf Naxos* was recently released on DVD from Virgin Classics.

Professor Mentzer has appeared on four continents in nearly every great opera house and orchestra under the batons of R. Abbado, Bonyngé, Boulez, Chailly, Conlon, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Andrew Davis, Dutoit, Eschenbach, Haitink, Herbig, Järvi, Levine, Maazel, Mackerras, Marriner, Masur, Mehta, Muti, Ozawa, Salonen, Sawallisch, Slatkin, and Sinopoli, among others. Professor Mentzer cites as particularly inspirational Jean-Pierre Ponnelle and Giorgio Strehler. She can be heard on numerous recordings on Decca, Erato, Philips Classics, Telarc, Teldec, EMI, Koch, and International labels. She has taught at DePaul University and the Aspen Music Festival.

Susanne Mentzer holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School, and was trained in the Houston Grand Opera Studio. She studied with Rose Bampton and Norma Newton. She serves on the Board of Trustees of The W.M. Sullivan Foundation in New York, which supports young singers, and is a board member of the George London Foundation. She also regularly adjudicates the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and The George London Foundation Competition.

GRANT LOEHNIG, a native of Jefferson City, Missouri, is a recent graduate of the world-renowned Houston Grand Opera Studio, where he worked with many of the operatic world's finest artists. During his residency at Houston Grand Opera, Mr. Loehnig assisted on almost a dozen productions, while performing in the orchestras of *Hansel and Gretel* and *Die Zauberflöte* and performing onstage in *La fille du régiment*.

Mr. Loehnig has been a vocal coach for Wolf Trap Opera, Berkshire Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and Manhattan School of Music's Opera Theatre. He has also held prestigious fellowships at Music Academy of the West, Centro Studi Lirica in Italy, and San Francisco Opera's Merola Program.

His collaborative engagements include performances with St. Paul's Schubert Club and at Carnegie Hall's Weill and Zankel Halls. Frequent collaborators include Marcus DeLoach, winner of the inaugural Wigmore Hall Song Competition, and Albina Shagimuratova, the 2007 gold medal winner of the Tchaikovsky Competition.

An active champion of new music, Mr. Loehnig has performed widely with the contemporary ensemble TACTUS and worked on many world premieres. With American Opera Projects he has premiered several pieces, including Jennifer Griffith's **Dream President** and Jorge Martín's **Before Night Falls**. He also premiered an accompanied choral work by Stephan Paulus, and can be heard as the solo pianist on the premiere recording of Lee Hoiby's **A Month in the Country**, released by Albany Records. Most recently, Mr. Loehnig assisted on the Houston Grand Opera world premiere of Jake Heggie's **Last Acts**, written especially for Frederica von Stade.

Grant Loehnig is currently Artist Teacher of Opera Studies at The Shepherd School of Music. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, with degrees in music, political science, and gender studies. He received his Master of Music degree in vocal accompanying from Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with renowned collaborative pianists Warren Jones and Thomas Muraco.

DOROTHY BAKER is a scholar, translator, and professor of English at the University of Houston. She received the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Maryland and has also taught at the Gutenberg University in Mainz. Baker is the author of four books, the most recent being **America's Gothic Fiction: The Legacy of Magnolia Christi Americana**. She has also published numerous essays on early American and antebellum literature, many of which focus on women's literature in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, in particular in the work of Hannah Webster Foster, Margaret Fuller, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Emily Dickinson. Of special interest to this audience, Dr. Baker's essay on Aaron Copland's **Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson** appeared in the **Emily Dickinson Journal** in 2003. Because of her interest in the art song, she collaborates with musicologist and Copland scholar Howard Pollack on a graduate seminar on the American Art Song and American Poetry at the University of Houston's Moores School of Music. Dorothy Baker's current research focuses on issues of literature and the other arts in the baroque period, and her translation of Christine Buci-Glucksmann's **Madness of Vision** is forthcoming in late 2011.



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